

an explosive device, his first concerns were for his fellow Marines.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring and remembering Marine Sergeant Alessandro Carbonaro, who exemplified the ideals put forth by the Reconnaissance Creed—Honor, Perseverance, Spirit, and Heart. Please also join me in expressing my deepest condolences to his parents, his young wife, Gilda, and his extended family and friends. Although Sgt. Carbonaro will be profoundly missed, his unwavering devotion to his family and country will live on in the hearts of those who were touched by the life of this fallen hero.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JEFF HENDERSON

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jeff Henderson for his extraordinary accomplishments in the culinary field and for his success with his new book.

Jeff Henderson's life is an inspirational story of overcoming great odds and achieving one's dreams. Growing up in South Central Los Angeles and San Diego, Jeff had a run in with the law where he served almost a decade in federal prison. He did not discover his passion for cooking until doing kitchen duty. Jeff began his new found passion as a dishwasher and worked his way to the top as a Chef for restaurants such as L'Escale and the Dining Room at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Marina Del Rey, California. He later became the Sous-Chef at the Hotel Bel-Air and at L'Ermitage Hotel.

In 2000, Jeff made history as the first African American to be named Chef de Cuisine at the Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The American Food and Wine Tasting Federation honored him in 2001 as the "Las Vegas Chef of the Year". Black Enterprise magazine has also honored him as one of the top African-American chefs. While he is currently employed at Café Bellagio as Executive Chef, he also serves as a public speaker and motivator to provide inspiration for troubled youths.

Jeff's greatest accomplishment has come from his book entitled, "Cooked: From the Streets to the Stove, From Cocaine to Foie Gras". Since its March 2007 release, his book is now a New York Times Best Seller after just three weeks. His story has gained national attention with appearances on the Today Show and Oprah. There are even talks to star in his own reality show and to produce his life story in a motion picture starring Will Smith.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the hard work and accomplishments of Chef Jeff Henderson. He has set a fine example for everyone to achieve their dreams with dedication. I wish him luck in all his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the Chamber for rollcall No. 205 on March 28, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

REINTRODUCTION OF ENDING TAX BREAKS FOR DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2007 AND THE FAIR PLAY-EQUAL ACCESS IN MEM- BERSHIP RESOLUTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing a bill to end government subsidies for private clubs that discriminate against women. Ending Tax Breaks for Discrimination Act of 2007 makes it illegal to take income tax deductions for expenses at clubs with "No Women Allowed" membership policies. It is wrong for corporations to write-off big expenditures for entertainment, meetings and advertising at clubs that keep women out while they target women consumers' pocketbooks. This bill will put an end to that. With the Masters Golf Tournament coming up this Monday, April 2nd, now is the time to address these discriminatory practices.

Right now, conventions and meetings come right off corporate income tax as legitimate business deductions, including those held at private clubs that discriminate. Half the price of a business lunch is deductible. But if you're a woman, you subsidize ½ a guy's lunch with your taxes, even though you can't join the club. The whole point is that members of these clubs get financial gains—either indirectly through career opportunities and board appointments, or directly through tax deductions. Women can't get these same financial gains—just because they're women. Golf is so ingrained as a part of business success that business schools teach juniors and seniors how to make the most of country club memberships. If you can't play golf, join the "guys" after a round, and get the same elite club bonus package from your employer that your male counterparts can, you're clearly missing out.

This bill ends deductions for advertising, travel, accommodation and meals associated with these clubs. And it requires discriminatory clubs to print right on their receipts "not tax deductible".

Let me be clear, I like big business, but women must be equal players. Legitimate tax deductions should continue, but when these deductions support clubs that bar women as equal partners, equal players, equal earners—they are not legitimate. This bill is past due. The time for discrimination is over.

I am also reintroducing a resolution, the Fair Play-Equal Access in Membership Resolution, which expresses the sense of the Congress that neither the President, the Vice President, nor any Member of Congress, justice or judge of the United States, or political appointee in

the executive branch of the Government should belong to a club that discriminates on the basis of sex or race. It's common sense that our leaders and lawmakers should not belong to clubs that discriminate . . . period.

CONCERN ABOUT FARHAD ALIYEV AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN AZER- BAIJAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to call the House's attention to an important human rights case in Azerbaijan. Mr. Farhad Aliyev, the former minister of economic development and a leading pro-West reformer, has been arrested and charged with planning a coup, though I think his true crime was speaking truth to power in Azerbaijan. Too often, the United States has allowed immediate interests to blind us to the long-term risks associated with ignoring or downplaying significant human rights violations abroad. There is enormous potential in U.S.-Azeri relations, and I want to see this relationship continue to blossom. But we risk implanting a fatal flaw in this development if we are not frank about our concerns about human rights and the rule of law.

I submit a March 17, 2007, article from the Washington Times, "Ex-Azeri official held for 17 months", by Jason Motlagh, detailing Mr. Aliyev's case for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with my remarks.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 17, 2007]

EX-AZERI OFFICIAL HELD FOR 17 MONTHS

(By Jason Motlagh)

BAKU, AZERBAIJAN.—The view from Sabina Aliyeva's balcony commands the skyline of this reborn boomtown and the Caspian Sea beyond, but for the past 17 months one stark gray building off to the right has loomed large.

Inside, her husband, Farhad Aliyev, the former minister of economic development and a leading pro-West reformer, remains locked in solitary confinement, charged with planning a coup—though no evidence of it has been put before a court of law.

International human rights groups and U.S. lawmakers say Mr. Aliyev is a political prisoner whose rights have been violated as he awaits due process. According to Azeri law, a judge must hear his case by April or release him from pretrial detention.

The high-profile case comes amid efforts by the Bush administration to secure closer ties with the oil-rich nation, considered to be of increasing importance in a sensitive region. Critics counter that better bilateral relations must be in step with U.S. demands for democratic reform, and not allow a convenient foreign policy to obscure a grim human rights record.

Azerbaijan is a secular Muslim country on the western shore of the Caspian Sea, wedged among Iran, Armenia, Russia and Georgia. U.S. officials have stressed its value as a reliable energy supplier, citing continued Azeri oil and natural-gas deliveries to Europe as a counterweight to Russia's state-owned energy giant Gazprom.

President Ilham Aliyev—no relation to the accused—has also been a willing partner on security issues. One of the first foreign leaders to contribute troops to missions in Iraq and Afghanistan, he granted U.S. pilots overflight rights in Azeri airspace, and the Pentagon is sponsoring an upgrade of a former